

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 29, 2003 Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nolan et al. ("Nolan" US Patent 5,253,362) in view of Borghesi et al. ("Borghesi" US Patent 5,950,169).

In response to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly distinguish Applicants' invention over the cited art. In particular, Applicants have amended the claims to recite "at least one suffix indicating a type of insurance coverage for a participant in a claim." In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to indicate that prefilled information identifying a file note in a first set of fields comprises "at least one suffix indicating a type of insurance coverage for a participant in a claim." Applicants have similarly amended claim 9 to indicate that attributes associated with a claim comprise at least one suffix indicating a type of insurance coverage for a participant in a claim." Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references fail to disclose such suffixes, and that any combination of the references would not lead to Applicants' invention.

The primary reference Nolan is directed to a method for storing and retrieving data object annotations including automatic transcription. Data on a patient's medical chart may be annotated by the health care provider, such as the nurse. These annotations are then fanned-out to other forms, such as the nursing progress notes and medication forms. This fan-out may be performed automatically or by providing the nurse with a scratch pad of annotations, which may be copied directly to the progress notes or enhanced prior to entry.

The Examiner suggests that Nolan discloses in Fig. 5 a suffix field "Vitals" and a series of related fields ("Heart Rate," Blood Pressure," "Temp." and "Respiration Rate") that each represent part of the suffix field. However, the "Vitals" field does not represent a suffix field as claimed by Applicants. That is, the suffix field of Applicants' invention is specific to a participant, and could vary between participants, and could change for a given participant depending upon the insurance coverage desired by the participant. In contrast, the "Vitals" of Nolan is fixed, and comprises predetermined fields common to all patients. Applicants respectfully submits that the combination of cited references does not lead to Applicants invention.

Applicants submit that the dependent claims are allowable for the same reason that the independent claims are believed allowable. Applicants submit that the claims as amended are clearly allowable over the cited references and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



John J. King
Registration No. 35,918
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200